

REMARKS

The following remarks are submitted to address the above amendments and issues raised in the Official Action mailed July 24, 2006. A Request for Extension of Time for one month is filed herewith to extend the time for responding to this Official Action to November 24, 2006.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 20-22 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-6, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 23, and 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,983,529 (Serna) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,125,081 (Hallenbeck) or U.S. Patent No. 5,086,574 (Bacchiocchi). Claims 1-9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 23, 24, 26-29, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,369,896 (Frachey) in view of either Hallenbeck or Bacchiocchi. Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Serna or Frachey in view of U.S. Patent App. 2003/0084595 (Weiss). Claims 1-19 and 23-31 have been cancelled herein. Claims 20-22 stand allowed.

No new matter has been added. Support for requested amendments can be found in the original claims and throughout the present specification and drawings. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-6, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 23, and 26-28 — 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The rejections of claims 1-6, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 23, and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Serna in view of Hallenbeck or Bacchiocchi are respectfully traversed. Claims 1-6, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 23, and 26-28 have been cancelled herein. Therefore, the rejections of these claims are now moot. Accordingly, the Office is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of claims 1-6, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 23, and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 1-9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 23, 24, 26-29, and 31 — 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The rejections of claims 1-9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 23, 24, 26-29, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frachey in view of either Hallenbeck or Bacchiocchi are respectfully traversed. Claims 1-9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 23, 24, 26-29, and 31 have been cancelled herein. Therefore, the rejections of these claims are now moot. Accordingly, the Office is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of claims 1-9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 23, 24, 26-29, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 14 — 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Serna or Frachey in view of Weiss is respectfully traversed. Claim 14 has been cancelled herein. Therefore, the rejection of this claim is now moot. Accordingly, the Office is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Allowed Claims

The Official Action states that claims 20-22 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that a full and complete response has been made herein to the Official Action and, as such, all pending claims in this application are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests early consideration of the present application, entry of all amendments herein requested, withdrawal of all rejections, and allowance of all pending claims.

The Office is respectfully invited to contact J. Michael Boggs at (336) 747-7536, to discuss any matter relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

11/21/06
Date

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